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Wigan Rural District Council



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1954



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Wigan Rural District Council

Chairman :

W. THOMPSON, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

I. CROPPER, ESQ.

Councillors :

N. GASKELL, ESQ.

J. H. GILL, ESQ.

J. K. HODGE, ESQ.

W. A. RIGBY, ESQ.

J. SCHOFIELD, ESQ.

MRS. M. M. TARBUCK

Clerk :

ROBERT GASKELL, F.C.C.S., F.A.C.C.A.

Staff Public Health Department :

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Engineer, Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector :

J. HOLDING

Water Inspector :

H. CARRINGTON

10, BRIDGEMAN TERRACE,

WIGAN.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Wigan Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District, compiled, as in previous years, in the form indicated by the Ministry of Health.

I take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council, the Staff of the Health Department, and especially to the Sanitary Inspector, for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Council my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER.

JULY, 1955.

Wigan Rural District Council

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA :

Area : 11,695 acres.

Population (Census 1951)	8,213
Estimated mid-1954 (Registrar-General)	8,230
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1954—	
according to Rate Book	2,607
Rateable Value	£48,941
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£190

The chief industries of the Wigan Rural District are agriculture, stone quarrying, glue manufacture, bleaching and dyeing, brick manufacture, malt extract manufacture and linoleum manufacture. Certain districts are mainly residential.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births (Legitimate)	62	48	110
(Illegitimate)	3	—	3
TOTAL	65	48	113
Still Births (Legitimate)	4	3	7
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	3	7
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :			
(Legitimate)	4	1	5
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	1	5
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :			
(Legitimate)	3	1	4
(Illegitimate)	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	1	4
DEATHS			110
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population mid-1954			13.9
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population			14.4

TABLE I.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		INFANT MORTALITY.			
									TOTAL		Neo-Natal	
	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 pop'n.	No. Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Regd.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
Year 1954	113	13.9	110	14.4	7	58	Nil.	Nil.	5	44	4	35
Year 1953	133	16.3	87	10.8	4	29	Nil.	Nil.	4	30	4	30
" 1952	117	14.6	71	8.9	4	33	Nil.	Nil.	6	51	4	34
" 1951	117	14.8	116	14.8	1	8	Nil.	Nil.	3	26	2	17
" 1950	103	12.8	103	12.8	2	19	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
" 1949	130	16.3	99	12.4	2	15	Nil.	Nil.	3	23	Nil.	Nil.
Ave. 5 yrs 1949-1953	—	14.9	—	11.9	—	20	—	Nil.	—	26	—	16

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and the number of Deaths from each cause in 1954, with comparative figures for 1953 :—

TABLE II.

	No. of Deaths.			
	1954.		1953.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	3	1	1	1
Tuberculosis—Other	—	—	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections.....	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—
Cancer	8	5	6	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—	—	—
Diabetes	—	2	—	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	5	10	8	5
Coronary Disease, Angina	14	1	11	1
Hypertension with Heart Disease.....	—	1	—	1
Other Heart Disease	11	12	6	15
Other Circulatory Disease	3	1	2	1
Influenza	2	1	2	—
Pneumonia	2	—	1	—
Bronchitis	4	2	1	3
Other Disease of Respiratory System	1	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	—	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	1	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	7	4	3	5
Suicide and Other Violent Causes	3	2	4	—
	65	45	46	41

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Preston. The arrangements are satisfactory, a report being received on every examination.

Five bacteriological examination reports on samples of water were received from the Wigan Royal Infirmary during the year and five chemical analyses from the County Analyst, Preston. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Parishes obtain water supplies from the following sources :—

DALTON	Wrightington Borehole and Spring Water.	
HAIGH	Blackrod U.D.C.	
WORTHINGTON	Various supplies from	} ... Upland. ... Surface ... Water
	fringe Authorities	
SHEVINGTON	Standish U.D.C.	
PARBOLD	Own supply Deep Well Water and Spring Water.	
ANDERTON'S MILL.....	Chorley R.D.C. Upland Surface Water.	

WATER SHORTAGE.—The provision of a water storage tank has to a great extent alleviated the complaints of periodic water shortage in the high level area of Shevington.

TABLE III.

WATER SUPPLIES.

PARISH	Number of Dwelling houses	Supplied by Wigan R.D.C.	Supplied by Other Authorities	No. of Houses without public Water Supply
DALTON	149	111	10 (Up Holland) U.D.	28
WORTHINGTON	52	2	24(Standish U.D.) 3(Chorley R.D.) 15(Wigan C.B.)	8
HAIGH	241	225	15 (Aspull U.D.)	1
PARBOLD.....	312	302	—	10
SHEVINGTON	1,117	1,117	—	—
WRIGHTINGTON	762	711	Wrightington 9 (Hospital) 1(Chorley R.D.)	41
	2,633	2,468	77	88

Table showing Consumption by Trade and Domestic Users.

Parish	Estimated “ Water ” Population	Average Daily Consumption (in gallons)			Average Consumption per day per head of “ Water ” Population.		
		Domestic	Trade	Supplied to other Districts	Domestic	Trade	Total
WRIGHTINGTON	2,851	53,790	30,342	Bispham 5,575	18.87	10.64	29.51
SHEVINGTON	3,057	64,405	11,783		21.10	3.85	24.95
PARBOLD	895	18,495	4,331		20.66	4.84	25.50
HAIGH	748	16,424	21,189	Aspull 21,666	21.96	28.32	50.28
DALTON	456	6,854	7,684		14.08	16.76	30.84
TOTAL	8,007	159,908	75,329		19.98	9.41	29.39
Average Daily Total, Domestic and Trade ...		235,297					

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1954) :—

Number of Privy Middens	201
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens.....	342
Number of Pail Closets	570
Number of Freshwater Closets	1,990
Number of Dry Ashpits	25
Number of Movable Ashbins	2,118
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System.....	1,838

During the year 11 privy closets were converted to fresh w.c.s and 6 to pails ; 3 pail closets were converted to fresh w.c.s ; 14 movable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles.

The Rural District Council make grants towards the cost of conversions to w.c.s.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Two refuse vehicles with 10 workmen are engaged on Refuse Collection.

Pails are collected by the Council's Cesspool Emptying Vehicle.

CESSPOOL CLEANSING.

A special Cesspool Emptying Vehicle is engaged on regular cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks. Tipping is carried out on agricultural land when suitable, or otherwise into the public sewer.

SEWERAGE.

The Council has in hand the preparation of a Scheme for the sewerage of Mossy Lea, in the Parish of Wrightington, and is desirous of proceeding with the sewerage of other unsewered areas when an outfall is available.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Twelve inspections were made under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950 and the Public Health Act, 1936 relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices and to sanitary conveniences were carried out during the year. The premises were generally satisfactory. One was found to be dirty but was cleaned after the visit.

CAMPING SITES.

There is one Camping Site in the Rural District.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the District.

DISINFESTATION OF VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Eight houses were found to be infested and were dealt with by spraying with Sulphur Dioxide, Gammexane and D.D.T.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The manufacture of glue is carried on in the Appley Bridge area. The stocks are inspected regularly and the conditions are satisfactory.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the District.

CANAL BOATS.

No infringements of the Acts were discovered.

SCHOOLS.

The water supply to the Schools in the area is constant and sufficient, and the facilities for handling meals are considered to be satisfactory.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.—Some progress has been made in the closing or reconditioning of old houses where tenants have been rehoused in Council houses. There is now no serious overcrowding in the District. Many families from other Parishes of the Rural District have been rehoused in the Parish of Shevington, where a further 74 houses were completed during the year and 32 were under construction at the end of the year.

The commencement of the erection of Council houses in Dalton, Haigh and the Mossy Lea area of the Parish of Wrightington has been delayed by prolonged negotiations for land.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

Traditional permanent houses :		Houses.	Flats.
(i)	By the Local Authority	74	—
(ii)	By other Local Authorities	—	—
(iii)	By other bodies and persons	28	—
		102	—

1.—INSPECTION of dwelling - houses during the year :—

(i)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	260
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	280
(ii)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932)	36
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	36
(iii)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	33
(iv)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	40

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	52
---	----

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year :—

A—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(i)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
(ii)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	(a) by owners	—
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	5
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	4
(iii) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings “not to occupy” were accepted by the Local Authority.....	3

D—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(i) Number of dwelling-houses, separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	27
(ii) Number of Closing Orders which were determined, the premises having been rendered fit	6

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART IV—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year (estimated).....	12
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein (estimated)	20
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein (estimated)	120
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	28
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	84

5.—HOUSING ACTS, 1949—1954—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS,
Etc. :—

(a)	(i)	Number of Schemes submitted :	
		(1) by private individuals to Local Authority	1
		(2) by Local Authority to Ministry	1

6.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.—An adequate supply of milk is produced within or brought into the district. Twelve samples of milk were taken and subjected to the biological test for Tuberculosis. Eleven results were satisfactory.

(b) ICE CREAM.—Four inspections of registered premises were carried out during the year and the results were satisfactory.

(c) MEAT.—There are two private slaughterhouses in the District, which are inspected regularly.

7.—FOOD PREMISES.

Number of food premises, by type of business, in the District at the end of the year :

TYPE OF BUSINESS	No.
General grocers	22
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	2
Meat Shops	4
Confectioners	4
Fried Fish Shops	2
Sweets, Minerals and Ice-Cream	3
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, etc.	40

Number of food premises, by type, registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Type of Business.	No. Registered at 31/12/54	No. of Inspections of Registered premises during year.
Ice Cream.	7	4

8.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

12 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, compared with 14 during 1953. One case was removed to hospital.

183 cases of Measles, 3 cases of Whooping Cough and 1 case of Dysentery were notified during the year, all of a mild type.

I am pleased to report that there was no outbreak of Food Poisoning in the District during the year.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child and is performed at the Clinic by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers or by the General Practitioners in their Surgeries. During 1954, 93 pre-school and 50 school-children completed a full course of primary immunisation with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid. In addition, 257 children were given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the District remains high, and cases of infestation by lice dealt with at the Clinics were few, and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

TABLE IV.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1954.

Disease	Total Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 yr.	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	Un- known	Removed to Hospital
Measles	183	2	11	23	26	20	98	2	1	
Scarlet Fever	12			1		1	7	3		1
Whooping Cough	3	1			1	1				
Dysentery	1						1			
TOTALS	199	3	11	24	27	22	106	5	1	1

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Distribution of Infectious Diseases over the several Parishes was as follows :—

	Cases.	Total No. of Cases.
DALTON :		
Measles	3	3
	—	
HAIGH :		
Measles	1	
Dysentery	1	
	—	2
PARBOLD :		
Whooping Cough	2	
	—	2
SHEVINGTON :		
Measles	111	
Scarlet Fever.....	4	
Whooping Cough	1	
	—	116
WORTHINGTON :		
Measles	2	
	—	2
WRIGHTINGTON :		
Measles	66	
Scarlet Fever.....	8	
	—	74
		—
		199
		—

CANCER.

13 Deaths, 8 Males and 5 Females, occurred in 1954 compared with 14 deaths, 6 Males and 8 Females in 1953.

Cancer cases are treated at the Manchester Radium Institute and at the Wigan Infirmary Clinic, which works in close conjunction with the Manchester Unit.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The notifications received during the year under the Public Health (T.B.) Regulations, 1930, were as follows:—

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1954 :

NEW CASES.

DEATHS.

Age Periods	Non-				Non-			
	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory	Respiratory
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65-over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	1	—	2	2	1	—	—

Notification of the Disease is prompt and satisfactory. The Manchester Regional Hospital Board provides facilities for the treatment of Tuberculosis, and these services are fully used and appreciated. The Chest Clinic is in Millgate, Wigan, and patients may be referred there for examination by their own doctor, or by the Assistant County Medical Officer.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—SECTION 47 :

No cases were dealt with during the year under Section 47 of this Act.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors) :—

PREMISES	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	25	18	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority *(excluding out-workers' premises)	6	8	1
TOTAL	31	26	3

*Electrical Stations (Section 103 (1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

One case of want of cleanliness (S.1) was found and remedied. One case of ineffectivè drainage of floors (S.6) was found and remedied. One case of insufficient and two cases of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences (S.7) were found and remedied.

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 110 AND 111).

The number of out-workers in the August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) was 1 Wearing-Apparel Maker, 2 Stuffed Toy-Makers and 3 Basket Makers.

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.